

Community Sharing Fund of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation

Information for Referring Agencies

The purpose of Community Sharing Fund is to provide funding to individual and families with verifiable emergency needs when other services or funds are unavailable. Grants are approved for rent, damage deposit, utility costs, medical expenses, childcare, transportation and other critical needs.

Criteria for Funding

- The applicant is a resident of Dakota, Ramsey or Washington County, Minnesota, for at least 30 days.
- The request must be a health and human services related need.
- There must be someone in the residence age 18 and under.
- A member of the household must suffer from a life-threatening illness, a mental health condition or a physical disability.
- The applicant has not received a grant from the Community Sharing Fund within the last 18 months.
- No other member of the applicant's household has received a grant from the Community Sharing Fund in the last 18 months.
- The need has been created by an unforeseen event that has resulted in an emergency.
- The Community Sharing Fund is a resource of last resort. Eligibility for assistance from other funds and the family's own resources are considered.
- The grant will solve a problem that is not expected to reoccur in the near future.
- If the emergency has resulted from a resolvable underlying issue, the grant will be approved only if the referring organization can verify that corrective action has been taken.

Grant amounts range from \$100 to \$750, and up to \$1,000 for housing assistance.

Ineligible Requests

- The Community Sharing Fund does not fund attorney fees or travel costs and other expenses related to child custody issues.
- Requests are not approved for payment of bail, traffic tickets and fines or other expenses related to illegal activities.
- Requests are not approved for burial or funeral expenses.

How to Use Community Sharing Fund

Application

Requests for Community Sharing Fund grants on behalf of individual clients are made through our [online grant portal](#). All first-time users will need to register. Caseworkers are encouraged to

contact the Fund administrator with questions regarding the appropriateness of a request. You may be referred to other community resources.

Referrals

Clients should not be referred directly to the Community Sharing Fund. The Community Sharing Fund relies on agency staff to gather necessary background information and ensure that Fund criteria have been met. Direct referrals may complicate matters for clients because they will be referred back to a social worker in a human service agency.

Application Information

When submitting an application, the caseworker must submit the following information:

- Your name and the name of your organization
- A brief account of the current crisis, describing why it is an emergency, what precipitated the crisis, what other attempts have been made to solve the problem and why it is unlikely to reoccur
- The amount requested and the basis of determination
- The client's name, address (including county and zip code), age, racial or ethnic group, number of dependents, monthly income, source of income and a breakdown of monthly expenditures
- Documentation that supports the request

Funding Decisions

Once staff has received the application, please allow up to five business days for staff to review the application and contact the caseworker. Decisions on grants are usually made within a week from when the application is received.

Payment of Grants

Cash grants are **not** made to clients. Community Sharing Fund grants are payable to referring agencies [501(c)(3) organizations or government agencies] for use as specified in the grant agreement. Payments to vendors (landlord, utility company, etc.) are made by the referring agencies.

For-Profit Organizations Only

*If the agency is a for-profit organization, the caseworker will need to be contracted with an agency of 501(c)(3) status or a government agency. The contracted agency will be reimbursed. *For example:* the county or another nonprofit agency.

Who to Contact

For more information, or to apply, visit communitysharingfund.org or contact:

Community Sharing Fund
Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
101 Fifth Street East, Suite 2400
St. Paul, MN 55101-1800
Phone: 651.325.4260